

REMARKS

Claims 21, and 23-29 remain in the application with claims 21, 26, and 27 having been amended hereby and claim 22 having been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the objection to the title. A new title has been proposed that is intended to be more clearly indicative of the novel features to which the amended claims are directed.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 21, 23-26, 28, and 29 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Mons et al. considered with Aramaki.

In the Official Action claims 22 and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 21 has been amended hereby to include claim 22 in its entirety. Claim 22 has been cancelled. Claims 23-26, 28, and 29 all depend from claim 21.

Therefore, by reason of the inclusion of the allowable subject matter in claim 21, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the cited references.

Claim 27 depended through claims 26 and 22 from claim 21 and claim 27 has now been placed in independent form.

Accordingly, by reason of the inclusion of allowable subject matter in the independent claims of this application, it is respectfully submitted that all claims remaining in this application are patentably distinct over the cited references.

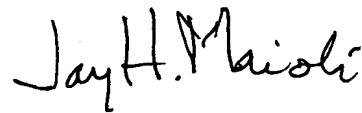
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The references cited as of interest have been reviewed and are not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M".

Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27, 213

JHM:tb